

ART. V.—*New Australian Coleoptera with Notes on some
previously described Species, Part I.*

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(With Text Figure.)

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BYRRHIDAE.

PEDILOPHORUS VENUSTUS, n.sp.

Head and prothorax brassy, with a purplish tinge; elytra bright metallic green, under surface reddish-fuscous; appendages paler. Portions of upper surface glabrous, but in parts clothed with a dense semi-decumbent golden pubescence, forming definite patterns, this interspersed with much longer and more erect dusky hairs; under surface and all appendages with paler pubescence.

Head widely rounded in front, with dense and sharply defined punctures. Antennæ with joint 1 very stout, and darker than the following ones; 3 thin, and a little longer than 2; 4, 5, 6 subequal; 7 somewhat transverse; 8, 9, 10 strongly transverse, and with 11 forming a stout club; 11 viewed from above pointed, and about twice the length of 10; viewed from the side, however, it is seen to be bluntly rounded. Prothorax strongly convex, sides near base quite vertical; punctures as on head. Scutellum small, punctured. Elytra strongly convex, sub cordate, punctures very much fewer and sparser than on prothorax. Epipleuræ narrow, terminating at hind coxæ, with a few ill-defined punctures. Under surface heavily punctured, except on disc of metasternum, where they are much finer and sparser.

Length.—3, breadth 2, mm.

Habitat.—Victoria: Fern Tree Gully, Warburton (F. E. Wilson).

Compared with a co-type of *P. raucus*, Blackb., the present species differs in being much smaller, colouration different, elytra, disc of metasternum and legs, with very much finer and sparser

punctures, and clothing forming distinct patterns. These patterns however may easily lose their symmetry where a specimen has become greasy. Four specimens were secured at Fern Tree Gully, and six at Warburton by sieving damp moss collected from treefern trunks and old logs.

Type in author's collection.

PEDILOPHORUS GLOBOSUS, n.sp.

♂ Reddish-brown, becoming darker in places, glabrous, nitid. Legs, palpi and two basal joints of antennæ fuscous, rest of antennæ darker; antennæ finely pubescent, clypeus with a few longer hairs. Under surface and legs clothed with very short pale pubescence, densest on apical ventral segment.

Head rather large, with somewhat sparse, but well-defined punctures, fairly uniformly distributed; antennæ moderately long; joint 1 very stout; 2 thinner, and decreasing towards apex; 3 much thinner, and approximately equal to the three following combined; 4, 5, 6 slightly decreasing in length; 7 rounded; 8, 9, 10 transverse, and forming with 11, which is stout, and bluntly pointed, a well defined club. Prothorax smooth, strongly convex, almost twice as long as broad, rounded in front, and evenly decreasing in width from base to apex; lateral margins narrow. Scutellum apparently wanting. Elytra smooth, very convex, almost continuous with outlines of prothorax; epipleuræ very broad to about hind coxæ, then becoming abruptly, but evenly narrowed down to their termination just beyond base of apical ventral segment. Under a high power the abdominal segments appear to have fairly numerous shallow transverse depressions on their surface, this being not so noticeable on the apical segment.

Length.—1.5 mm.

Habitat.—Victoria: Warburton, near the summit of Mount Donna Buang, Fernshaw (F. E. Wilson).

In the type and one other specimen the ♂ sexual organs are well exerted, and consist of a fairly long, parallel-sided penis, on either side of which are two acutely pointed horny processes.

When highly magnified a very obscure transverse row of dark spots can be discerned on the prothorax, just above the basal margin. One specimen of the twelve under examination is almost quite black, the others being coloured as in the type. This species comes nearest to *P. atronitens*, Lea, but may be

easily distinguished from that species by its glabrous upper surface, less distinct cephalic punctures, and in having a club composed of 4 joints only as against 5 in *atronitens*. All my specimens were secured from damp moss, collected from old logs during the month of April.

Type in author's collection.

PEDILOPHORUS RAUCUS, Blackb.

Byrrhus raucus, Blackb., Trans. and Proc., Roy. Soc. S. Aust., xiv., 1891, p. 133.

I am not aware of any previous record of members of the genus *Pedilophorus* being associated with ants, practically all the known species having been taken either in moss or in flood debris. Whilst I also have taken *P. raucus* in moss, I have to record the finding of sixteen specimens in a single nest of a small ant at Lakes' Entrance.

My friend, Mr. C. Oke, has also collected from ants' nests at Bacchus Marsh specimens of a *Pedilophorus* which I believe to be this species, although I have not had an opportunity as yet of carefully examining his material.

EROTYLIDÆ.

EPISCAPHULA RUFOLINEATA, n. sp.

♂ Black, nitid, all markings yellowish red; apex, sides and about half base of prothorax margined by a moderately broad band; prothorax subequally divided into four zones by three irregular longitudinal stripes starting from the front marginal band, the centre one falling a little short of the basal margin, the two outer ones joining the basal marginal band; each elytron with a stripe bordering about half the base, and continuing around the scutellum a short distance down suture; an irregular fascia beginning near suture at about one-third, and meeting at outer edge a narrow marginal stripe starting from shoulder, the latter passing a little beyond its juncture with fascia; a somewhat irregular stripe beginning near apex, passing up near suture, then gently curved outwards, meeting margin at about two-thirds, from whence becoming attenuated, it returns along the margin to apex; all appendages castaneous except club of antennæ, which is black.

Head moderately distinctly punctured on clypeus, more sparsely elsewhere; eyes widely separated from scape by a

rounded outward projection of head. Prothorax about one-third wider than long, lightly but frequently punctured, except on the side margins, which are almost impunctate, and in the shallow depressions on either side of base, where there are a few well defined larger punctures. Elytra faintly punctured; punctures tending to arrange themselves in series, this most pronounced near suture. On the pale markings there are a few black spots, which also suggest being placed in longitudinal series. Scutellum strongly transverse. Prosternum with punctures fairly numerous, except on intercoxal projection, on the outer edge of which there are several shallow longitudinal sulci. Mesosternum lightly, metasternum more heavily, punctured, the latter also with a well defined longitudinal sulcus on disc.

Length.—7.5; breadth, 3.5 mm.

Habitat.—Queensland: Mt. Tambourine (A. M. Lea and H. Pottinger); Blackall Ranges (F. E. Wilson); National Park (H. Hacker).

The ♀ may be distinguished by its much shorter antennæ and legs, and its considerably less dilated front tarsi.

Some specimens are somewhat larger than the type, and the elytral markings are more or less variable. Specimens from Mount Tambourine are all very similar, but two from Blackall Ranges, and one from the Queensland National Park, exhibit the variation as shown in figure B; figure A representing the markings of the type.

Type in author's collection.



FIG. A.



FIG. B.

STAPHYLINIDAE.

MEGALOPS MELBOURNENSIS, n. sp.

Upper surface, with the exception of elytra, and the flavous apex of sixth visible abdominal segment, jet black; elytra red, the whole highly polished; antennæ with joints 1-8 testaceous, 9-11 black. Femora and tibiæ dark, but with their bases and apices paler; tarsi and palpi flavous, mandibles becoming paler at their apices. Under surface with mouth parts, gular, a border around metasternum, and trochanters testaceous, the rest black, and the whole nitid.

Head subtriangularly produced in front, with very large foveate punctures, except at apical margin and on disc; eyes finely faceted; antennæ with joint 1 cylindric, thick, 2 thinner and nearly equal to the three following combined, 3-8 monoliform, 8 somewhat longer than the preceding one, 9-11 forming a very conspicuous club, joints 1-8 with a few setae, 9-11 rather strongly pubescent. Prothorax about as long as broad, sides produced into a blunt tooth just above basal half, and again between that point and apex, strongly convex, with irregular punctures as on head, punctures tending to arrange themselves in circular series; unpunctured spaces somewhat raised. Scutellum small, truncate behind, with two large foveate depressions in middle. Elytra about the length of prothorax, subsutural striae well defined, disc of each elytron with two wide, deep, obscurely punctate striae, which neither attain the base nor apex of elytra; midway between these and the lateral border are a few large irregular punctures arranged longitudinally; near apex of each elytron at sutural angle are a few irregular indistinct striae. Abdomen narrower than elytra; arranged across basal halves of each segment are a series of large shallow depressions, these becoming less distinct on apical segments; apical declivity of each segment with several transverse rows of fine lines; lateral margins of abdomen with sparse decumbent pubescence. Under surface with prosternum punctured as on pronotum, metasternum with a few smaller setigerous punctures on disc only, abdominal segments with somewhat similar punctures arranged transversely.

Length, 3.75 mm.

Habitat.—Victoria: Melbourne (F. E. Wilson and Ejnar Fischer), Noble Park, Preston (F. E. Wilson).

This species may be readily distinguished from *M. nodipennis*, Macl.,¹ by its different colouration, its much more even prothoracic surface, and the absence of the nodular excrescences on the elytra, which is so characteristic a feature of that species.

My friend, Mr. Fischer, and myself first secured this species from beneath the bark of red gums that had been recently flooded by the overflow of the Yarra. Other specimens were found by me later under a piece of bark lying on the ground, and beneath stones.

Type in author's collection.

PSELAPHIDAE.

ARTICERUS WILSONI, Lea.

(Trans. and Proc. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., xliii., 1919, p. 169.)

This species, which was named by Mr. A. M. Lea from specimens which I secured from nests of *Iridiomyrmex detectus*, at Eltham, near Melbourne, evidently is widely distributed, as a ♂ example was found by me last October in a nest of the same ant at Caboolture, some thirty miles north of Brisbane. Mr. Lea tells me that Mr. Elston has also lately obtained a specimen from a nest of *I. detectus* near Adelaide, so that probably wherever this ant is located specimens of the Pselaphid will be found also.

SCARABAEIDAE.

PANELUS BIDENTATA, n. sp.

Upper surface generally black, but with sides of prothorax towards apex, shoulders, and a spot on each elytron on outer edge near apex, red; basal 2 and apical 3 joints of antennæ darker than the intermediate ones; legs with femora and tibiae dark testaceous. Under surface with palpi and prosternum testaceous, the rest blackish.

Head large, depressed in front, somewhat convex behind, armed with two prominent prongs jutting out in front, space between prongs evenly rounded, punctures numerous and well defined, becoming slightly larger towards base. Prothorax about one and a-half times broader than long, moderately convex, sides sub-parallel to within about one-third of apex, then strongly narrowed; puncturation much as on head. Elytra at base slightly

1. Trans. Ent. Soc. N.S.W., vol. ii., pp. 150.

wider than prothorax, sides evenly rounded, rather strongly convex, with seven striae on each elytron, arranged singly; interstices flat, uniformly covered with a minute meshwork of fine lines; on the centre of each interstice at extreme base there is a minute nodule, but this would not be visible if the prothorax and elytra were closely applied. Scutellum minute, rounded behind. Under surface with metasternum moderately punctured, abdominal segments with a transverse row of minute punctures at their extreme base, but apical segment with a few extra punctures scattered about.

Length.—3, breadth·2, mm.

Habitat.—Victoria. Lakes Entrance (F. E. Wilson).

This interesting little Scarab was secured when sieving leaf debris collected in a thickly scrubbed gully near the landing stage at Kalinna, Lakes' Entrance.

I have not seen a specimen of *P. pygmaeus*, Macl., but my friend, Mr. A. M. Lea, to whom I showed this specimen, tells me that in *pygmaeus* the elytral striae are arranged in geminate series, and that the prothoracic punctures are less coarse. *P. pygmaeus* also has no red markings.

Type unique in author's collection.

CHRYSOMELIDAE.

OOMELO BICOLOR, n.sp.

Flavous, nitid; apical five joints of antennæ, head, a large basal marking on prothorax, a transverse marking on each elytron, somewhat nearer base than apex; scutellum, tarsi, femora and base and apex of the four anterior tibiae, black or darker.

Head with a sharply defined, sparsely punctate depression midway between antennæ, another very shallow, ill defined one between eyes, and two others leading from upper ocular margins towards the infra antennal depression; antennæ with joint 1 thick, 2 shorter and somewhat oval, 3-6 elongate, subequal, 7-11 much thicker, 11 considerably longer than 10, and pale at apex. Joints 1-6 sparsely clothed with pale pubescence, 7-11 more densely clothed with darker pubescence. Prothorax about three and a-half times as wide as long, moderately convex, basal and apical width subequal, front angles moderately rounded, hind angles more acute, sparsely and very minutely punctured. Elytra slightly wider than prothorax, sides evenly rounded, with regular

rows of punctures, becoming almost obsolete on apical declivity; interstices with a few minute punctures.

Length.—3 mm.

Habitat.—Queensland: Goodna (F. E. Wilson).

This species apparently comes closest to *O. variabilis*, Lea,² but differs from the description of that species in the sculpture of the head, shape of prothorax and markings. A pair of these rather handsome little Chrysomelids were secured from beneath the bark of a rotting log.

Type in author's collection.

CHALCOLAMPRA PARVULA, n. sp.

Broadly ovate, very convex; head, sides of prothorax, base of elytra and suture broadly, sides of elytra narrowly, reddish-brown, the rest black, and the whole nitid. First four joints of antennæ testaceous, the rest darker; legs flavous. Upper surface (with the exception of a few setae on front margin of clypeus) glabrous. Under surface brownish-red.

Head sparsely and rather indistinctly punctured, with a shallow depression just above each eye, clypeal suture broadly v-shaped, reaching back a little beyond the points of insertion of antennæ; about midway on each arm of the suture is a deep circular depression, between which and the eye the cephalic surface is somewhat raised; eyes very coarsely granulate; antennæ with joint 1 very stout, 2 thicker than 3, 3 nearly twice as long as 4. Prothorax strongly depressed, about three times as broad as long, sides narrowly margined and rounded, but slightly incurved towards middle, anterior angles a little produced, posterior rounded; with fairly large, though sparsely distributed, punctures, becoming less frequent at sides. Scutellum subtriangular, smooth, impunctate. Elytra very convex, continuous with sides of prothorax, widest about midway, with nine rows of well defined punctures on each elytron, seventh and eighth row starting from a common puncture somewhat distant from the base of elytron, ninth row obsolete at about one-third; interstices with sparse smaller punctures.

Under surface with a depression on disc of metasternum, mesosternum and metasternum with sparse setigerous punctures, abdominal segments with scattered setigerous punctures and suf-

2. Trans. Roy. Soc., S.Aust., vol. xl., pp. 431.

face shragreened; elytral epipleurae rather wide, evenly decreasing from about midway between intermediate and hind coxae.

Length.—2.75 mm.

Habitat.—Victoria: Belgrave (F. E. Wilson).

Looked at from the side this little species is seen to have an outline forming a complete half circle. My unique specimen was obtained when sieving leaf debris, gathered at the foot of a treefern, growing in a very damp gully.

Type in author's collection.